

LONE WOLF

AND

子連れ狼

CUB

VOLUME 5

**BLACK
WIND**

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA



子連水狼

LONE WOLF AND CUB



story
KAZUO KOIKE

art
GOSEKI KOJIMA



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BLACK WIND

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA

子連れ狼



VOLUME

5

A NOTE TO READERS

Lone Wolf and Cub is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

LONE WOLF AND CUB



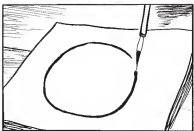
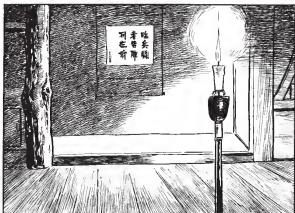
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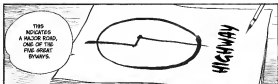
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the twenty-fourth

Trail Markers

















THE CART
FOR HIS SON,
RAYMOND-DONG
IT WAS THERE
CONCEALED
ANYWAY.



WELL DONE!
BUT I EXPECTED
NO LESS OF ~~RAYMOND~~
GONG, THE LEADER
OF THE ~~RECKONING~~
ARMY.



YES...
YAYO-SAMA
WHY YOUR INTEREST
IN ~~DOAN-DONG~~
NOW?



I PROMISED TO SPARE
HIS LIFE AS LONG AS HE
STAYED OUT OF EDO, BUT THE
SITUATION HAS CHANGED—AFTER
TWO YEARS, OUR FEUD IS
SUDDENLY UNDER
INVESTIGATION!

AND BY
HIGH SPOILSMEN
OFFICIALS...MEN
NOT EASILY
MANIPULATED.



WE MUST CUT
OFF TROUBLE AT
THE SOURCE BEFORE
IT GROWS!



ORDINARY MOBILIZE THE
ASSASSINAGE HAVE YOUR
MEN POST EVERYWHERE
TALENTS ON EVERY
TEMPLE! FIND CHANG
ITTO!

BUT,
YASUO-
SAMAH...



...AS I SAID
BEFORE, WE
ASSASSINAGE HAVE
NO DISPUTES WITH
CHANG-SAMAH.
PLEASE
RECONSIDER...



HEH
HEH...

I THINK
YOU'RE
SCARED,
CHANG.



OUR BROTHERS
FOUGHT CHANG, AND PERISHED.
IF OUR BEST MEN COULD NOT DEFEAT
SUCH A SWORDMASTER, WHO AMONG
US CAN? I CANNOT WASTE MORE
MEN—OUR DUTY IS TO SERVE
THE ASSASSINAGE.

I AM AWARE OF THAT.
CLEARLY JUST FINDING
CHANG WILL FREE
MEN OFF.



Y-KASHI
CHANG-SAMAH?

HE RETURNED FROM
THE NORTH LAST NIGHT.
ANOTHER ASSASSINATION
ACCOMPLISHED...HEH! IF
SUNSHINE FIGHTS ITTO,
VICTORY IS
SURE.

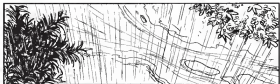


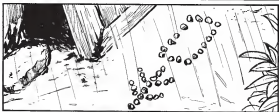
CHANG-
SAMAH STILL
LIVES...?











NO

DŌCHŪDAN!



A LARGE
TREE BY A
POND...

WHERE
THE DEVIL
...?

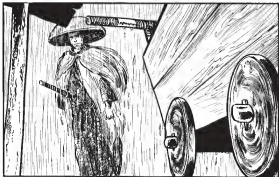
I KNOW—
THE GHOST
CROSSING BY
THE IRRIGATION
POND

THE
KODAK
SHUTTER
RELEASE





















AND AT THE
CRUCIAL MOMENT,
THE TIP OF YOUR SWORD
POINTED STRAIGHT AT
OUR LORD!

I LOST WHEN I
FOHEED TO PROTECT HIM!
YOUR SWORD IS NO SAMURAI
SWORD—IT'S A SWORD OF
SLAUGHTER! YOU
BUTCHER MEN
LIKE SWAMP!

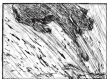


I DEDICATED
MY LIFE TO DOING
THE SWAMP'S DIRTY
WORK... JOHNNY FOR
THE FORDHAM...
AND THAT WAS
MY REWARD?

WELL, IT'S
HISTORY NOW.
THE FORT OF ASHLEY
KNOWLEDGE
BELONGS TO YOU
AND WHEN I KILL
YOU, THE STORY
OF THE ODAI
CLAN ENDS!











ACHIEVING...
 SHAN-DONG TAKEN
 HIS DOYMAKKE TO CATCH
 SUMMER IN HIS
 STROKE!

A MIDS-
 BROADCAST
 CALCULATION
 MISS, AND HE'D
 BE CUT IN
 HALF...

STEALING
 LIFE FROM
 DEATH...

the twenty-fifth



Executioner's Hill

礼記

君子曰く

樂はその自ら生ずる所を樂すむ

礼はその本を慕ふを取す

古の人にまゐり

曰く狼死して正しく丘に首するは

仁なり

楚辞

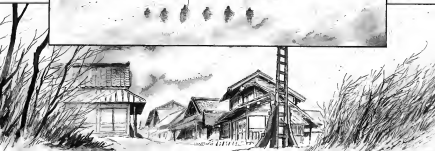
鳥は飛んで故郷に反り

狼は死するに必ず丘に首す

TRUE JOY IS TO TAKE PLEASURE
IN ONE'S OWN ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
COURTESY IS TO LEARN FROM THE MODELS OF THE PAST.
DID NOT THE ANCIENTS SAY, IN DEATH THE WOLF
TURNS HIS HEAD TOWARD THE HILLS?
THIS IS VIRTUE.

THE BIRDS FLY, RETURNING TO THEIR HOMELAND,
AND WITHOUT FAIL, THE DYING WOLF
TURNS HIS HEAD TOWARD THE HILLS.

















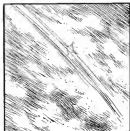


















RAKES
SENSE...



WITH FIFTY THOUSAND EYES,
WE OURSELVES MIGHT HAVE
INFLUENCED THE *MOJO*,
AND SAVED OUR
AMAL...

AM.



SO, IN
THIS WORLD,
MOKEY RAKES
EVERYTHING
SO AROUND...
EXCEPT THE
SHADOW
HIMSELF?

AND YOU THINK
THAT'S WHY HE'S BEEN
TRAVELLING LIKE A
STARVING WOLF? HE'S
SAVING THE MOKEY HE
GETS FOR HIS
KILLINGS...?

YES, IF
HE BECAME AN
ASSHOLE NOT JUST
TO SURVIVE, BUT AS
PART OF A GUEST
TO DESTROY THE
YAGEL, THEN...



THEN
THERE IS
MOKEY!

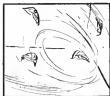


EIGHTY!



LET'S
DO IT!







NOW, THIS IS
THE MAN THEY
PICKED TO BE
SHOGUN'S
EXECUTIONER.

HIS
SOFT SPOON-
HAMMERED STROKE
IS SUPPOSED TO BE
STRONGER THAN THE
SWORD OF THE
YAMBU.



MEANING... DADA
SHOGUN FROM HIS
ACQUAINTANCE
TECHNIQUE
CAN'T DEFEAT
KIM?



NOT EVEN
WITH SHOGUN'S
JADA'S SHOGUN-
AND SHORT SWORD
AT MY SIDE!



THEN THE
FIVE OF US
TAKE HIM
TOGETHER!

REMEMBER,
WE'RE NOT
OUT TO
KILL.

OUR FIRST
OBJECTIVE IS TO
MAKE HIM TELL US
WHERE TO FIND
THE GOLD.

WHY
DON'T WE
TAKE THE
BOY?































YOU WANT
ONLY INDEED.
KILLING THE CHILD
WILL NOT GET
YOU ANY.

YET IT IS
A FATHER'S NATURE
TO DEFEND THE LIFE OF
HIS CHILD...ALL THE MORE
SO WHEN YOUR QUEST
HANGS ON THAT
BOND.



NO.
WE LIVE IN
MISFEASANCE,
FATHER
AND SON
FORFEITERS!

UNDER-
STANDING FROM
THE BEGINNING
THAT WE DEFTY THE
RULES OF JINSEI-
DO SEVEN, THE
SIX PATHS AND
THE FOUR
LIVES!



IF WE LOSE
EVERYTHING IN
THIS PLACE, THEN
SUCH WAS OUR
FATE ON THE
DANCING ROAD.
SO BE IT!

IF
THEN...ONE
QUESTION!

WHEW
YOU SAW
YOUR SON WAS
IN DANGER, WHY
RUSH TO HIS
DEFEAT?



ISN'T THAT A
FATHER'S
LOVE??

ONE STRUGGLES WITH
ALL HIS RIGHT TO READ OFF
DEEDS. BUT ONCE HE HAS DONE
ALL HE CAN, HE ACCEPTS FATE WITH
EQUANIMITY. ANYONE ELSE
WOULD ANYONE LEAVE
EVERYTHING TO
CHANCE??



SAUGH
CRASH

HOW?? YOU SPEAK
THE TRUTH, OSAKI...OUR
GOAL IS MONEY. THERE IS
NO PROFIT IN TAKING
A CHILD'S
LIFE.

I'LL
GIVE THE
DEATH I
WANT!



TO LIVE BY
ANYFUNDADO...
ACCEPTING ALL
THE REVERSALS
OF ANGRY
SPRINGS...

IT DRINKS
IT ALL BACK,
DOESN'T IT...?
THERE WAS A TIME
WHEN I' CURSED
THE SHOGUN.

I SWORE
I'D LIVE BY
ANYFUNDADO, AND
ATTACK THE SHOGUN'S
PROCESSION ALL
ALONE, IF THAT'S
WHAT IT TOOK
TO AVENGE
OUR LORD...



BUT A YEAR WENT BY... THEN ANOTHER... DAY AFTER DAY, HOW TO GET FOOD, WHERE TO FIND SHELTER, HOW TO MAKE IT TO TOMORROW...



AND NOW LOOK AT ME! I CAN HARDLY EVEN RESEMBLE OUR LORD'S FACE...



IF WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS?!! HURRY UP AND KILL HIM! HE'S JUST SETTING YOU UP!

HE'S TRYING TO TRAP YOU WITH WORDS!! THE GUYS USING HIS TONGUE LIKE A SWORD!!



SILENCE!!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN ANARCHY?!! IT MEANS LETTING YOUR OWN KID DECIDE WHETHER TO LIVE OR DIE!

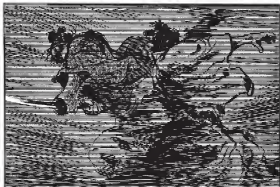
IT MEANS IF YOUR CHILD CHOOSES DEATH, YOU KILL HIM... WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!

























THE BIRDS FLY,
RETURNING TO
THEIR HOMELAND...
WITHOUT FAIL,
THE DYING WOLF
TURNS HIS HEAD
TOWARD THE
HILLS.

BUT AROUND THIS
FATED FATHER AND
HIS CHILD, THE WILD
DOGS-SATHER, READY
TO SWARM EVEN
THOSE WILD WINGS;
EVEN THAT WOLF
IN DEATH...

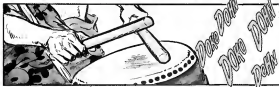
the twenty-sixth



Black Wind









DOH

DOH

DOH

DOH

THE FATHER
THE BOY SAW
NOW...



...FOR
THE FIRST
TIME IN HIS
LIFE...



...WAS A
WHOLE KIND
OF FATHER.





HIS QUICK EYES
FOLLOWED EVERY
MOVEMENT...



EVERY MOVEMENT
OF HIS NEW FATHER,
AS HE WORKED BESIDE
THE JEKLS IN THE
FLOODED RICE
PADDY.



WHY WAS
HIS FATHER
PLAYING
RICKY?



HE MIGHT HAVE
WONDERED AT
THIS MARVEL,
BUT NO, ALL HE
THOUGHT WAS HOW
MUCH HE WISHED
TO DO IT, TOO.



*Don Don
Don Don*



Don Don

HE WAS A CHILD
USED TO BEARING
WITNESS AS HIS
FATHER KILLED
MEN BEYOND
NUMBER.



DANROD NEEDED
NO REASONS. HE ONLY
KNEW THIS MUCH—FOR
HIS FATHER TO STAY IN
ONE PLACE FOR LONGER
THAN A SINGLE DAY...



...FOR HIS FATHER
TO SEND HIMSELF TO
SUCH SIMPLE WORK...THESE
THINGS FILLED HIS HEART
WITH A LIGHTNESS HE
HAD NEVER KNOWN
BEFORE.



HE WAS A CHILD WITH
SHEDDING EYES, A
DESTINY WRITTEN BENEATH
STRANGE STARS, FORCED
BY FATE TO WANDER
WITHOUT A HOME. FOR
SUCH A CHILD, THIS
MOMENT BY THE RICE
PADDIES, ALL SO ORDINARY,
WAS A FLEETING CHANCE
OF PEACE...



DOWN
DOKE DOWN



























IMPOSSIBLE BY BIRTH,
IT'D BE, NO MATTER HOW FAR HE'D
FALLEN, HOW HUNGRY HE MIGHT BE, IF
YOU WERE WILLIN' TO THROW YOURSELF
INTO FIELD WORK LIKE THIS, IT MUST
MEAN SOMETHING STRANGE GOING
ON. MY PEOPLE ARE ALL ABUSCE
ABOUT IT, THEY ARE.

SILENCE
SILENCE



YOU SO UPRIGHT AND
PROPER...YET EVEN WHEN
YOU WENT INTO THE RUD FOR
THE FIRST TIME, IT DIDN'T GIVE
YOU NO PAUSE AT ALL, NO
SIGN OF DISCOMFORT,
LIKE.

YOU WORK SO
EFFORTLESS AND NATURAL,
LIKE FLOWING WATER. I'VE
BEEN ASTONISHED, SIR,
AND THAT'S THE
TRUTH.



AND IT'S NOT JUST
ME... MY DAUGHTERS, MY
WIFE, OLD GERMAN HERE,
WE'RE ALL THE
SAME.













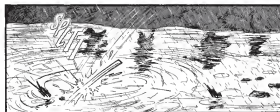
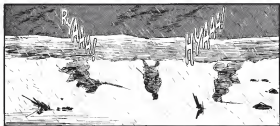


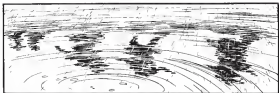














HIS FATHER HAD
RETURNED TO THE
PLANTING, BUT
PEACE WOULD NOT
RETURN TO THIS
BOY'S HEART.

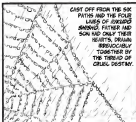


NAKED BLADE
CROSSED
NAKED BLADE.
AS ALWAYS,
HIS FATHER
WON.

BUT THE
BOY KNEW
WHAT WOULD
COME NEXT...



CAST OFF FROM THE SIX
PATHS AND THE FOUR
LINES OF JEWELRY
SAWING, FATHER AND
SON HAD ONLY THEIR
HEARTS, DRAWN
IRREVOCALLY
TOGETHER BY
THE THREAD OF
CRUEL DESTINY.



AND SO THE BOY KNEW THAT,
MOMENT BY PASSING MOMENT, THE
TIME TO LEAVE THIS VILLAGE AND
THIS PEACEFUL LIFE WAS
DRAWING NEAR.



SAKURAI
LORD!

O-
SANDAI-
SAMAI!



O-
SANDAI-
SAMAI!







B-BUT...YOU MUST
FEAR! THE DANGEROUS
MEN WILL BE COMING
FOR YOU!



THINK OF YOUR GNEEP, SON!
THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!
HERE--IT'S NOT MUCH, I KNOW, BUT...
SOME RICE, AND SOME SMALL
MONEY FOR THE ROAD.



MY
THANKS.
I WILL
ACCEPT THE
KINDNESS, IF
NOT THE
GIFT.

YET...I
ASK YOU TO
LET ME WORK
UNTIL THESE
SHOOT'S ARE
PLANTED.



THAT
IS WHAT
I CAME TO
DO!



IT MAY SEEM
STRANGE TO YOU, YET
FATHER AND SON TOGETHER,
WE ENTRUST OUR LIVES TO
THIS HARMFUL OF
SHOOT'S...

YOUR
LIVES...?



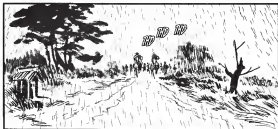
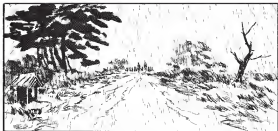
THE BOY DID
NOT MOVE. HIS
EYES FOCUSED
STEADILY UPON
THE RAIN-
SHROUDED
ROAD.

WATCHING FOR
THE BARNY THAT
MUST SURELY
EMERGE FROM
THE FOGGY
DISTANCE.



WATCHING.
IF SO IT
BE, FOR
DEATH.

















YOU
OFFER NO
ANSWER.

FOR ME TO
DO SO WOULD
CAUSE YOU
DIFFICULTY.

BEST TO
THINK OF ME
AS A PASSING
KIDNAP. NO
MORE.



I DON'T CARE!
FROM YOUR CARBIDE
AND THE SET OF YOUR
EYES, I CAN SEE YOU
ARE NO ORDINARY
MAN!

I AM
JINRYU
JINRYU, FORMER
MEMBER OF
THE KAMAYARI
DISTRICT.



FORMER
KIDNAP KAMAYARI...
JINRYU
JINRYU











WE...
WE SAW
NOBODY!!

THAT MONSTER
ESCAPED TO NEVER
CAME TO OUR DISTRICT!
NEVER! ALL OF YOU—
DO YOU UNDER-
STAND?







IT...IT'S PLAYING
TIME...I...I CAN
ALMOST HEAR IT...
THE PLAYING
SOUND...I KNOW...I
COULD BE THERE...
ONE LAST TIME...



CHANG HAD
LIVED TRUE
TO HIS
ASSASSIN'S
ROAD, AND SO
AN INNOCENT
GIRL HAD DIED.

THE HEARTLESS END
TO A LIFE TOO FULL OF
TRAGEDY, A CHILD SOLD
TO THE PROCUERS BY
IMPOVERISHED PARENTS.
YET WITH HER DYING
BREATH, SHE STILL
LONGED FOR HOME.

UNKNOWN TO ALL,
ITTO HAD PLANTED
STRAWS OF THE
YOUNG WOMAN'S
HAIR WITH EACH
SHOOT OF RICE.



UNKNOWN
TO ALL...



WHY HAD HE
COME TO THIS
SMALL VILLAGE?
NONE THERE
WOULD EVER
KNOW.

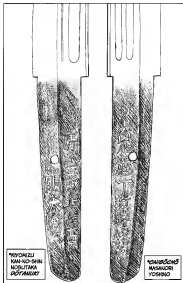


ANYMORE THAN
WHY THE BLACK
WIND BLOWS...





the twenty-seventh



*Decapitator
Asaemon*

YAMADA ASAEMON

THE FIRST, SADATOKI, DIED DECEMBER 18, THE FIRST YEAR OF *KYŌHŌ*, 1716.

THE SECOND, YOSHITOKI, DIED APRIL 19, THE FIRST YEAR OF *ENKYŌ*, 1741.

THE THIRD, YOSHITSUGU, DIED MAY 22, THE SEVENTH YEAR OF *MEIWA*, 1770.

THE FOURTH, YOSHITOMO, DIED SEPTEMBER 17, THE FIRST YEAR OF *TEMMŌ*, 1786.

THE FIFTH, YOSHIAKITSU, DIED FEBRUARY 9, THE SIXTH YEAR OF *KAŌ*, 1823.

THE SIXTH, YOSHIMASA, DIED JUNE 17, THE FIFTH YEAR OF *KŌEI*, 1832.

THE SEVENTH, YOSHITOSHI, DIED, DECEMBER 29, THE SEVENTEENTH YEAR OF *ANSEI*, 1852.



Death Penalty:
*The head shall be covered
 from the body, and the
 corpse used for o-tameshi.*
 - The O-Sadamegaki,
 Article One Hundred.

ALL PRISONERS WERE DEEMED
SUITABLE FOR O-TAMARU
EXCEPT FOR PRISONERS
OF SAMURAI DESCENT,
BUDDHIST PRIESTS
AND ACQUITTED,
SAMURAI PRIESTS
AND ACQUITTED,
FARMER/ARTISAN
PEASANTS,
MILITARY, AND
THOSE WITH
THE POX OR
SKIN DISEASE.



WHEN AN *Q-TAMESHU* WAS TO BE PERFORMED, THE *CHOSHIMACHO-KUWYO* (COMMISSARAGE OF SWORDS) NOTIFIED THE *AMACHO-KUWYO* IN CHARGE OF DEBAMACHO PRISON TO SET THE DAY AND SELECT A PRISONER.

AMACHO WAS SURPRISED TO THE TESTING GROUND.



ON THE DAY OF *Q-TAMESHU*, AT THE APPOINTED HOUR, THE PRISON EXECUTIONER DECAPITATED THE CRIMINAL ON THE EXECUTION GROUND.

THE SEVERED HEAD WAS PLACED NEXT TO THE BODY, AND THE CORPSE TRANSPORTED TO THE *Q-TAMESHU* GROUND.



IN ATTENDANCE AT THE TESTING GROUND WERE THE *CHOSHIMACHO-KUWYO* AND HIS AIDES, THE *CHOSHU* *AMITSUKI* (PALACE GUARD INSPECTOR), THE *ADAMAY* (SWORD APPRAISER), THE PRISON GUARDS...



...THE *FORMY* (POLICE LIEUTENANTS), THE *ADAMAY-KUWYO* (PRISON COMMISSIONER), THE *CHOSHU* *AMITSUKI* (INSPECTOR SERGEANTS), THE KEEPERS OF THE KEYS, AND THE PRISON EXECUTION OFFICIALS.

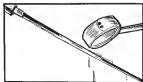
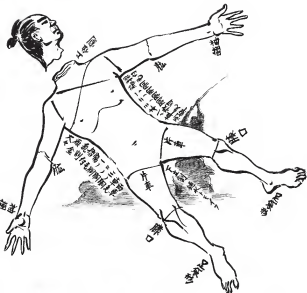


THIS WAS THE WAY OF *Q-TAMESHU*.

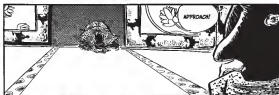




















THERE IS NO
OTHER MAN ALIVE
WHO CAN FACE BOTH THE
ASSASSIN SWARDS OF
THE YAMU AND THE
EXECUTIONER'S
SWORD OF OSAKI
ITTO!

AND FURTHER—OSAKI ITTO
WAS ONCE KOSHAMIDAMA, SEVERING
THE HEADS OF LOVING MEN! YOU,
TOO, HAVE DONE THIS. YOU ARE
OF DIFFERENT BLOOD, YET THERE
MAY BE AN UNDERSTANDING,
BROTHERHOOD TO
DECAPITATOR!

ACCORDING TO
THE *CHUNSHIMAN*,
OSAKI ITTO
TRAVELS SOUTH
ALONG THE
SAKAI DO
BYWAY.



RIDE LIKE
THE WIND! YOU
WILL OVERTAKE
HIM IN TEN DAYS
OR LESS.

AND
BEWARE OF
THE YAMU!



MY
LORDS...





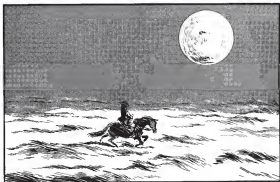




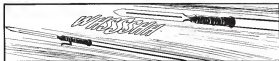






















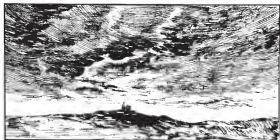
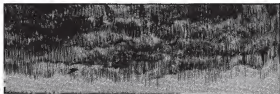
















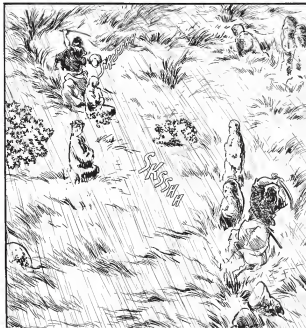






















THEY MUST
HAVE ANTICIPATED IT WOULD
BE AN O-TAKASHI
DUEL, AND PUT
COLLARS ON THE
STATUES...

TO KILL
ME...? OR
ELSE...



HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR
THIS COLLAR, IT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN ME WHO FELL HERE
TODAY. WAS IT THE YAMU'S
SCHEMES THAT SAVED ME,
OR THE DECKS OF
AMATEMORI...?



THIS MUCH IS
CLEAR! THE YAMU
ARE SO DESPERATE
THEY'LL STOOP TO
ANYTHING TO
DEFEAT ME!

WISDOM BYAMUDDO
—THE WHITE WAY
BETWEEN THE TWO
ENEMIES IS OUR
VORTEX! WE AT
READY!



YAMUO ASAMORI YOSHITSUKU
DIED THE SEVENTH YEAR OF AMEAMI.
1770. OFFICIAL "CAUSE OF DEATH":
SUDDEN ILLNESS.



the twenty-eighth

The Guns of Sakai















HIS BODY WASHED UP ON THE BANK OF THE KYOCHO RIVER LAST NIGHT. LOOK CLOSELY!! HE WAS HIT SHATTERINGLY BY A SCORE OR MORE THREE-ACROSS LEAD BULLETS!

SO IT SEEMS UNCHANGING
FAST MAKES NORMAL
SACRIFICING HE'S BEEN
WORKING IN SECRET TO
PERFECT SOME KIND OF
DEADLY AGGRESSIVE-
PURE HARMONY.



IF THESE NEW GUNDS REACH THE MEMORIES OF THE WESTERN ARMY IN LARGE NUMBERS, IT COULD THREATEN THE SOVEREIGNTY ITSELF!

WE NEED THE PERMISSION OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCIAL INBOD TO PROSECUTE A SHOGUNATE GLASSMATE.

BUT THAT TAKES TIME, AND THERE ISN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE! SHOCKROCKS MUST BE ELIMINATED IMMEDIATELY!

OF COURSE, WE'LL SEARCH HIS WORKSHOP AFTERWARDS, AND NAME WHATEVER WE DISCOVER PUBLIC!

OF COURSE,
WE'LL SEARCH HIS
WORKSHOP AFTERWARDS,
AND NAME WHATEVER
WE DISCOVER
PUBLIC.

I SEE
YOU'VE
THOUGHT IT
THROUGH!



WH-
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN...?



YOU
SEND ME
INTO A HAIL OF
BULLETS, PUTTING
ME AGAINST
SHICKHOLE.

THAT WHY YOU CAN
SEE WHAT HE'S BEEN
HAVING. SOLVE IT. BAD
TASTE CREDIT FOR IT
YOURSELF!



B-
BUT... I
DON'T...



WITH
SADOUGH REAL,
YOU COULD
SEARCH HIS
WORKSHOP AND
BRING THIS TO
LIGHT WITHOUT
ME.



BUT... BUT HE'S CERTAIN
TO USE HIS DEADLY NEW
WEAPON! OUR CASUALTIES
WOULD BE ~~AMAZING~~!



THAT'S
WHY I WANT
MORE! DO YOU
REFUSE?!



NO.
I'LL DO
IT.



Y-YOU CAN
TAKE AS MANY
SACRIFICES
AS YOU
NEED!

I NEED
NOTHING!

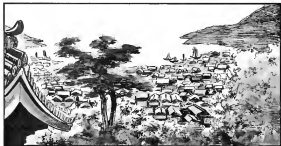










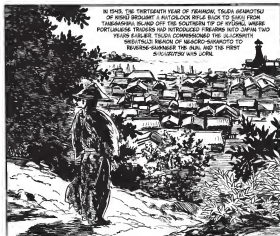








IN 1543, THE THIRTEENTH YEAR OF MEIAN, TSUDA NEMOTOBU OF KISHI BROUGHT A AUTOLOCK RIFLE BACK TO KISHI FROM TAIWANSHA ISLAND OFF THE SOUTHERN TIP OF KYUSHU, WHERE PORTUGUESE TRADERS HAD INTRODUCED FIREARMS INTO JAPAN TWO YEARS EARLIER. TSUDA COMMISSIONED THE BLACKSMITH SHINTSUJI KIKUCHI OF MASAOKI-SAKABOTO TO REPAIR THE RIFLE. THE GUN, AND THE FIRST SHOTGUN, WERE LOAN.

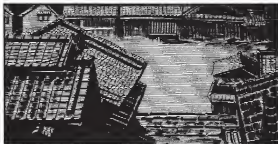


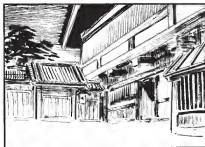


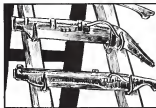
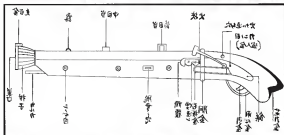
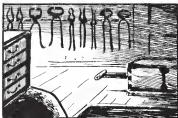
THE SHOGUNATE DESIGNATED THE SHIATSUKI FAMILY ITS OFFICIAL GUNSMITH, WITH AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT TO PROVIDE IT WITH FIREARMS.



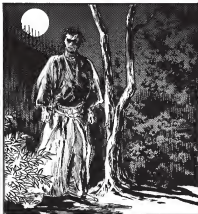
SHICHIRŌMI WAS A GUNSMITH WORKING FOR SHIATSUKI, A MAN SO OBSESSED WITH HIS CRAFT THAT HE REFUSED TO BREAK OF ANYTHING ELSE. HIS COLLEAGUES DERISIVELY NICKNAMED HIM *SILENT SHICHIRŌMI*.















FUHHHHH



A WATER-FILLED
BAMBAH TO EXHAUST
MY POWER! BRILLIANT!
YET THE MAMU: YOU
KILL ME, YOU
DIE!



WHAT
WILL YOU
DO??



....
....













FROM THIS,
ALL ELSE FOLLOWS—
IT MUST BE EASY
TO CARRY!



QUICK
TO LOAD WITH
POWDER AND
BULLET?



POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO KILL
A FOX WITH A
SINGLE
SHOT!

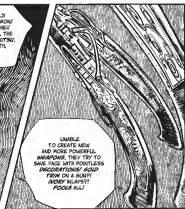




BE IT OUR LEADER SHIBATANI
RIMON, OR HIS COUSIN CHODAMON,
KAKIYA KAMASAKI, OR KYUJIRI
KAMISHIRO! THE FIVE SUMMITTES, THE
SUPPOSED MASTERS OF SAMURAI-DO,
HAVE FORGOTTEN THE TRUTH,
AND LEARNED ONLY
FAKE...



UNABLE
TO CREATE NEW
AND MORE POWERFUL
WEAPONS, THEY TRY TO
SAVE FACE WITH POINTLESS
DECORATIONS! GOLD
TRIM ON A SHIRT
ANDY WEARS!
FOOLS ALL!



TODAY A PLAIN
IRON-BOUND MUSKET
COSTS ONE HUN-
DRED SIXTY SILVER
YEN, BUT A
QUALITY ORNAMENTAL
MUSKET, TWO
HUNDRED EIGHTY
IN GOLD!



SUCH
PRICES ARE
ABSURD! THEY'RE
BASED ON FORCE, NOT
KILLING POWER! AND
THE SAMURAI! THOSE
BENEFITED MOST,
SAVED THEM UP BY
THE DOZEN!





I HEAR SHESATSUBI TRIED
TO MAKE A COPY OF MY
NEW GUN THAT THE
WEAPON BEGAN UP,
AND PEOPLE DIED!



WANT OF
COURSE HE
CAN'T DO
IT!

YOU CAN'T
MAKE A NEW
WEAPON OVER-
NIGHT! IT TAKES
ENDLESS
CONCENTRATION,
CONSTANT REFINE-
MENT!



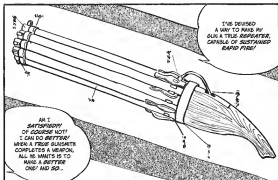
I'VE DEVOTED
THE LAST FOUR
YEARS OF MY LIFE
TO PERFECTING
THIS GUN!



THIRTY-FOUR BARRELS,
BUNDLED THREE APICES, FANNING
OUT FROM THE POINT! PRECISELY
NEARBY CHANNELS LEAD TO THE CHAMBER
OF EACH BARREL DIRECTLY FROM THE FIRING
PIN, SO ALL FIRE SIMULTANEOUSLY
FOUR YEARS TO MAKE
IT WORK!



AND
YET...













BUT...BUT,
SUN? ISN'T IT
NECESSARY FOR
US TO ALL WORK
TOGETHER?

FOR THE
GOOD OF ALL
THE GUNSAITHS
OF SAKAI,
SUN!



YOU'VE
BEEN MAKING YOUR
INVENTIONS IN SECRET
TO BOOST YOUR OWN
REPUTATION...

IT'S HURTS
ANYONE'S
FUTURE NOT
TO SHARE
THE PLANS...



WHY
YOU...HOW
DARE
POSSY?

MORTUESS
TRAITORS...ALL OF
YOUR ACCUSATIONS
THEIR LIES!



I PRAY FOR THE TRUE GROWTH
AND PROSPERITY OF SAKAI'S
GUNSAITH! I WANT TO SEE THE
FIVE SAKAI GUNSAITHS WORKING
THEIR FINGERS TO THE BONES!
THAT'S WHY I'VE KEPT MY GUNS
SECRET—SO THEY'D STOP
SLACKING OFF AND GO BACK
TO INNOVATING FOR THE
FUTURE! THAT'S WHY
THAT'S WHY...



AND NOW
POSSY MY OWN
APPRENTICES,
POSSONED
BY THEIR MINDS!















THE NATION IS AT PEACE,
STREETS FORGOTTEN, LUXURY AND
PLEASURES BUILT THE STREETS, AND OUR
PEOPLE WALLOW IN DECADENCE! YET THE
AMARUM! BARBAROS PRIDE THEIR
CANNON AND HUNGERLY EYES OUR
LAND! THE SEEDS OF WAR
ALREADY FLICKER IN
THE SOUTH!

IN TIMES SUCH
AS THESE, THE TRUE
WARRIOR GATHERS HIS ARMS
AND HORSES, AND DOES NOT
FORGET THE ARTS OF WAR!
ONLY A FOOL WOULD JOIN
HANDS WITH THE SENSATIVES
OF SAKAI, AND KNEW HE
KILLED FOR HIS
OWN HONOR!



WEAPONS HAVE A
LIFE OF THEIR OWN! MAKE
ONE WEAPON, AND A SECOND
APPEARS TO DEFEAT IT! A THIRD
TO MAKE THAT SECOND ONE
OBSOLETE! YET THEY SEEM
TO SIMPLY STEAL MY
DESIGNS AND COPY
THEM!

THEY
WASTED THE
DAY WHEN ALL
ARE OBSOLETE,
AND OUR NATION
LIES UNDE-
FEATED!



THE CUTTING
EDGE MUST THE
WEAPON, THE CUT-
TING EDGE IS SOUL,
THE ENDLESS
EFFORT OF THE
INVENTOR!

IF THIS TRUTH IS
FORGOTTEN, OUR
LAND WILL LIE AS
TAMPALED AS GRASSES
IN THE WIND, AND
THE NATION WILL
FALL!





SPEAK.



HURE.



....
....



WOUND THESE
GUNS? GIVE THEM
ON YOUR SHOULDERS
READY?

TO
WHAT
END...?



IF YOU USE AN MULTIPLE-FIRE
RIFLE, YOUR OPPONENTS WILL
BE STRUCK DOWN WITH FEAR!
AND THEN THEY'LL SEARCH
FRantically FOR A WAY
TO DEFEAT IT.



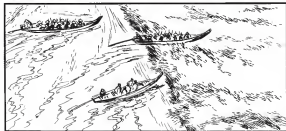
ESPECIALLY THE GUN-
SMITHS OF SAKAI! THEY'LL
LOSE ALL FACE! THEY'LL
BE FORCED TO MOBILIZE
AND CREATE NEW
WEAPONS!

















"THE JAPANESE BARBERSHOPS PRIDE THEIR CANNON AND MURDER! THEY OUR LAND! THE FIRES OF WAR FLICKER IN THE SOUTH!"

"IN TIMES SUCH AS THESE, THE TRUE WARRIOR GATHERS HIS ARMS AND HORSES, AND DOES NOT FORGET THE ARTS OF WAR!"



"ONLY A FOOL WOULD JOIN HANDS WITH THE SLAUGHTERS OF SAKAI, AND HAVE HE KILLED FOR HIS OWN JEAN!"

WHY FOOL!!



NOW HAVE A FEW ASSASSIN TALK BACK TO HIS EMPLOYER!

SILENCE!

THE WAY OF THE ASSASSIN DEMANDS THAT I KILL SHERROCK AS ASKED...















WHAT
THE JACK-O'-LANTERN
IS THAT KID DOIN'
AND HIS KID UP
TO...? LOOKS LIKE
THEY IS AAKIN'
SOMETHIN'...



GONNA
STICK IT IN
THAT CASEY,
HAYES...?



WELL,
GOT BE
MY CASEY,
HAYES ENOUGH.

BUT...
WHAT ARE
THEY MAKIN'
...?



LOVE WOLF AND OUR BOSS FIVE: THE END
TO BE CONTINUED

GLOSSARY

ban

A local policeman, much like a sheriff.

Daimon

The primary local representative of the shogunate in territories outside of the capital of Edo.

daimyō

A feudal lord.

dōtanuki

A battle sword. Literally, "sword that cuts through torsos."

The Forty-Seven Ronin

In one of the most famous stories in Japanese history, forty-seven loyal retainers of a lord forced to kill himself because of the schemes of an enemy dedicated their lives to avenging him, before committing ritual suicide at his grave.

giyaman

From the Portuguese "diamond," or diamond, the tool used to make cut-glass containers.

han

A feudal domain.

jōdai

Castle warden. The ranking law official in charge of a daimyō's castle when the daimyō was spending his obligatory years in Edo.

kōgi go-yō

The shogun's business.

kōgi kaishakunin

The shogun's own second, who performed executions ordered by the shogun.

machi-bugyō

The Edo city commissioner, combining the post of mayor and chief of police. A post held in monthly rotation by two senior Tokugawa vassals, in charge of administration, maintaining the peace, and enforcing the law in Edo. Their rule extended only to commoners.

meifumadō

The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation.

metsuke

Inspector. A post combining the functions of chief of police and chief intelligence officer.

nagamaki

A two-handed spear-like weapon taller than a man, with a short shaft and long, curved blade. Similar to the more common naginata, which had a longer shaft.

nanban

Westerners were known as "southern barbarians," after the first traders reaching Japan from the south. By the Edo period, Portuguese, Spanish, and Dutch adventurers, traders, and missionaries were active across Asia.

o-niwaban

"One in the garden" A ninja, the secret agents of the shōgunate, heard but never seen.

O-Sadamegaki

Short for Kujigata O-Sadamega. The concordance of shogunate laws, compiled in 1742.

obi

The often-ornate belt of fabric used to tie a kimono closed.

onibōchō

"Demon knife."

Ōsaka Castle

The largest castle outside of Edo, originally built by Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the first unifier of Japan.

Ōta Dōgan

(1432-1486) Japanese military strategist and castle designer, a retainer of the Uesugi clan. He designed the original Edo Castle.

Rikudō Gofu

A talisman of the Six Paths. Used to curse one's enemies.

Rōjū

Senior councilors. The inner circle of councilors directly advising the shōgun. The Rōjū were the ultimate advisory body to the Tokugawa shōgunate's national government.

rōnin

A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves." Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of *han*, expulsion for misbehavior, or other reasons.

ryū

Often translated as "school." The many variations of swordsmanship and other martial arts were passed down from generation to generation to the offspring of the originator of the technique or set of techniques, and to any *deishū* students that sought to learn from the master. The largest schools had their own *dojo* training centers and scores of students.

sai

The name of the riverbanks of the river Sagami, that divides the land of

the living from *mekido*, the land of the dead. Legend has it that the souls of dead children would pile rocks on the riverbanks of *san* (*san-no-kawara*) to pray for their parents.

Sakai

A famous trading port, now largely absorbed by the city of Ōsaka, but at the time the industrial powerhouse of Japan.

sō-metsuke

Another name for "*e-metsuke*." The senior law-enforcement officer of the shōgunate, reporting directly to the rōjū senior councilors who advised the shōgun.

Takama-ga-hara

A heavenly land of bounty in Japan's indigenous Shintō religion.

Wakadoshiyori

Junior councilors. The Tokugawa shōgunate was a hybrid government, both a national government empowered by the emperor to govern the nation as a whole, and a *daimyō* government like that of any *han*. The council of *wakadoshiyori* junior councilors was the highest advisory body to the shōgun on matters affecting the clan, rather than the nation as a whole.

yakuza

Japan's criminal syndicates. In the Edo period, *yakuza* were a common part of the landscape, running houses of gambling and prostitution. As long as they did not overstep their bounds, they were tolerated by the authorities, a tradition little changed in modern Japan.

yoko-metsuke

A local inspector reporting up the chain of command to the *e-metsuke* in Edo.



Two samurai match swords in a battle of honor; freshly planted shoots of rice bear the dying wish of a farm girl; a master gunsmith, victim to the deadliest sword in Japan, passes on his secrets to an unlikely recipient. Together, the ronin Lone Wolf and his little cub walk a path of vengeance, leaving a wake of blood and defiance wherever they roam. Combining elements of ultra-violence with a sense of deep honor and paternal love, *Lone Wolf and Cub* is in a league of its own among works of graphic fiction.

"Lone Wolf echoes traditional Japanese art in its restrained, realistic visuals and its unrestrained stories, which evoke classical samurai tales' blend of cultured aestheticism and sheer, ruthless bloody-mindedness."

— The Onion

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